



# Shed Torque

## The Official Newsletter of the Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed

*Issue No. 6 — September 2022*

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### Greetings

Vale – Ian Sharpe – “Sharpie”

We recently received the sad news that our colleague, friend and long-time member, Ian Sharpe, had passed away. A sympathy card from The Shed has been forwarded to his family together with a letter containing some reflections from the Shed. A copy of that letter is as follows;

### **Ian Sharpe (“Sharpie”)**

Some reflections from The Shed.

As the story goes, under the guidance of Sharpie, a bookcase was being constructed just outside The Shed when a lady was walking past and asked what it was they were building. Sharpie replied that it was a coffin for him. Eyeing the size of the rather large bookcase and the size of Sharpie she commented that it seemed very large for him to which he replied, “yes, but not for two of us!” She shook her head and walked off very quickly, muttering to herself.

He always had a great sense of timing and rarely missed arriving at The Shed right on morning teatime and always with a number of sheets of jokes of varying degrees of humour. Admittedly, it was always enjoyable to sit and listen to his life and work experiences.

When Shed members had “footygate” duties which was the collection of gate entry fees to the local football/netball and the selling of firewood raffle tickets for The Shed, he was always willing to volunteer for this very arduous task. This would mean being at the local ground from 0700 to 1500 in the very inclement, winter weather and being prepared to walk up and down the long queues of vehicles waiting to get in.

Due to failing health he would generally last 30 minutes before becoming exhausted and would then spend the rest of his time sitting with the ladies on the till, under shelter, by the fire, and chatting, drinking coffee and eating cupcakes and biscuits.

When he broke the rear window of his ancient Camira station wagon, everybody thought that finally he would write it off and purchase something more modern and reliable. This was not to be, as only Sharpie could find a replacement window of that vintage. So, after months of driving around Mt Beauty with not so clear plastic taped to the back of his tailgate, he arrived at The Shed with a brand-new rear window which we all thought actually cost more than the car was worth!

On a personal note, I worked with Ian at Thomastown in the sixties producing protection systems for the SEC of Vic. We then diverged in our locations with Ian shifting to Malvern and myself to Mt Beauty. Ian then became a first-aid trainer and we met again at Kiewa works area. He was accompanied by Reg Grundy and both were extremely good at their jobs. Later, Ian stayed in the area to live. He joined the Men’s Shed as mentioned. Also in the shed was Ian Docking who was a mate in Wodonga and belonged to the same Pipe band.

*From: Dick Puttyfoot - President.*

## Committee Corner



For details of our committee’s discussions and decisions, don’t forget to refer to our web site [www.mountbeautymensshed.org.au](http://www.mountbeautymensshed.org.au) Once there, select Admin, then Meeting Minutes, then 2022, and select the month you wish to view to see what matters your committee is dealing with.

Please make a note, our **Annual General Meeting** is to be held together with our monthly BBQ lunch at The Shed on the **16<sup>th</sup> of September 2022** at mid-day. All members are encouraged to attend.

To be considered is to whom we should be selling our kindling. A large quantity of our kindling has been purchased by commercial interests from Falls Creek which has led us to have a shortage for our locals.

At the next Committee meeting (12 Sept) and Annual General Meeting (16 Sept), it is intended to discuss a paper titled “*Top Ten reasons why volunteers leave an organisation.*” This, together with how to encourage individuals to join various volunteer organisations, is a very real problem facing volunteer groups in our valley

and The Men's Shed is no exception. Input from you, our members, will be greatly valued.

## Top Ten Reasons Why Volunteers Leave an Organisation

We hear of many organisations that struggle to get volunteers. Alpine U3A is no exception, as this newsletter has indicated often. A survey done some years ago and published in a *Energize Volunteer Management Update* came up with the following ten reasons of why volunteers leave an organisation. *What can Alpine U3A learn from this?*

### Reason #10

- *The reality of their experience is not what they expected when they signed on.*

### Reason #9:

- *They don't like the work they are being asked to do nor how it is being done.*

### Reason #8:

- *Veteran or leadership volunteers won't let them into the "insider" group.*

### Reason #7:

- *They spend more time meeting than doing.*

### Reason #6:

- *No one listens to their suggestions.*

### Reason #5:

- *They feel unrecognised, and see that thanks are unfairly given to everyone, no matter who did the most work or none at all.*

### Reason #4:

- *They are no longer asked to participate.*

### Reason #3:

- *They do not actually understand how to get more involved.*

### Reason #2:

- *They can no longer see how their involvement makes a difference.*

### And the #1 reason volunteers leave is:

- *It stopped being fun.*

Earlier today, I saw a bumper sticker that said "I'm a veterinarian, therefore I can drive like an animal." Suddenly I realized how many proctologists are on the roads...

THEY SAY 40 IS THE NEW 30 AND 50 IS THE NEW 40.  
ALL I KNOW IS THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE 9PM IS THE NEW MIDNIGHT

play  
gem  
radio

## Off Cuts — (snippets of news from around the Shed)

1. **Birthday Boys for September** — Congratulations to *Ken Halse, Mike Parkinson, Dick Puttyfoot, Barry Hinson* and *Bryn Allis* who celebrate a birthday in September.
2. **Committee Meeting** — Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September – 9:30 am at the Shed.
3. **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** — Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 12 noon at the Shed. Includes a BBQ lunch for \$7.00.
4. **Les Bevan** — One of our two welding gurus is recovering from a fall. We wish Les well with his recovery and hope to see him back in the Shed soon. Also, congratulations to Les on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last week.
5. **Tom Lawler** — *Tom* has been working for many months on producing a large mural for the Neighbourhood Centre to go on the north and south walls. It's a huge project. He has used the Shed space, tools and some members' help for part of it. He has also done a lot of work from his home in Germantown. The finish product will be 'something'. Well done, Tom.
6. **Membership to date:** Individual 50 and organisations 3.
7. **Kindling Sales** – These have been going well since we started in April. 191 bags sold at \$10/bag. Demand is out stripping supply. We need more wood. If you are aware of a source, please let us know.
8. **Reg Hollonds** — *Reg* (a foundation member) and his wife Yvonne head north each winter. While *Reg* was away he became quite sick, but we are told that he has made a full recovery and will be heading home in a couple of weeks. It will be nice to see you back in the Shed, Reg.
9. **Christmas Santa Project** — *Henry Ziemnicki* oversees this project which involves cutting out large Santas and smaller elves from a sheet of plywood, undercoating the ply, colour decorating the item and securing the item on a wheeled stand. These will be offered to businesses for six weeks around Christmas to display outside their premises.
10. **New (second-hand) trailer for Neighbourhood Centre** – The boys have been working on refurbishing a second-hand trailer that was donated to us. We have donated it to the NH Centre to replace their old rusted out one. Some parts from the old trailer have been used on the new one and it should be operational by the start of September. Mainly *Dick* and *Shane* have been doing the work, though *Les* and *Barry* used their welding skills as well.
11. **Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Kits** (for members only) – The Shed has been supplied with a quantity of these so if you wish to pick up 2-3 please visit the Shed.
12. **Men's Shed Week** (Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022) — This is a week designated by the *Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA)* where Sheds can put on events for its members and the community to promote men's health and well-being locally.



### And just a reminder from our last Shed Torque

They said that doing things for people "satisfies a need within us for being worthwhile" and "increases our own sense of self and value".

### 5 Ways to Live with Purpose

1. **Find your passion:** In later life, you may have more time to devote to your interests, be they artistic, creative, political, spiritual or recreational.
2. **Plan for it:** Start thinking about how you might like to spend your time when you're older.
3. **Adapt to your circumstances:** If your job or career has given life meaning, perhaps you can volunteer in the same sector or act as a mentor.
4. **Make the best of your situation:** During retirement, you might be thrown into a scenario you never envisaged, such as caring for a parent. It's an opportunity for giving that can be a privilege and provide great satisfaction.
5. **Make a contribution:** Whether it be as a home handyman or a soup kitchen volunteer, "*giving back*" benefits everyone.

## Camaraderie keeps Shedders living well\*

Having relationships, connecting and caring for others are so important to living well. These are basic human needs, and can all be summed up in one word, **camaraderie**.

Camaraderie is one thing the men's sheds supply in spades.

### ***Tips for connecting***

1. Spending time with others and sharing something in common helps build relationships.
2. Allow the other person to get to know you, but make it a higher priority to find out about them.
3. Find common interests or share common experiences.
4. Take the initiative to better know them and to consider how you might help them.
5. Sustain an on-going connection through genuine care.

Our mates are the essence of the shed, not the premises. And the equipment is just the backdrop. But all together, the mates, the activities and the premises – they all keep us living well.

\*with thanks from John Sharples – Cessnock Men's Shed





# Annual General Meeting

Friday 16th September 2022

The 2022 AGM is being held on Friday 16th September at the Shed, 2 Tennis Court Ave Mount Beauty starting at 11:30 am for a 12-noon sit-down BBQ (\$7.00) followed by the AGM.

Come along for the social camaraderie and to support this unique community organisation. The Shed provides a valuable and remarkable asset for the UKV community. Currently, we have 50 individuals and three organisations as members.

- [Nomination Form](#)\* (download as a Word doc and type into it and email it to <[secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au](mailto:secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au)> by Wednesday 14th September.
- [2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#)

\*The election will comprise the **executive positions** of president, vice president, secretary & treasurer plus a number of **ordinary committee** members (the number to be determined at the meeting). The nomination form indicates a number of **portfolio positions** that can be taken up by committee members or volunteers.

Please consider nominating or volunteering.

**Masks**— *It is highly recommended that you wear a mask. Of course, you will need to remove it for eating and drinking.*

Safely in the care of our metal workers *Mal*, *Les* and *Barry* looking forward to putting it through its paces.



### **New work bench.**

Please take care when walking past our new work bench as you're likely to be accosted by our treasurer, looking to "hustle" another poor, unsuspecting shed member. *Ian H.* tries his luck.







For more information, visit <https://www.mountbeautywritersfestival.com>

### **Golfing Dedication.**

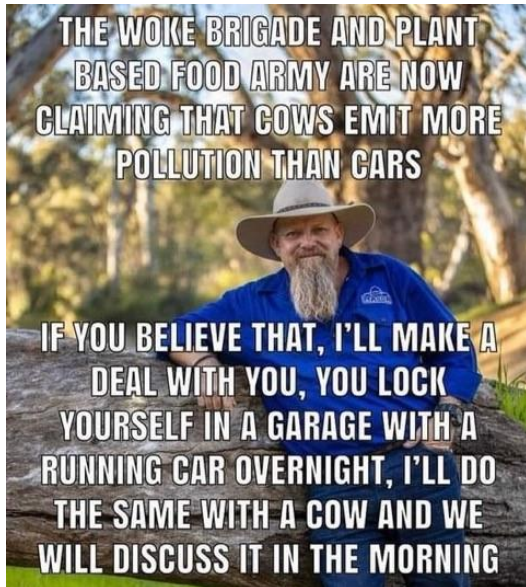
Two friends are playing golf at their local golf course.

One of the guys is about to chip onto the green when he sees a long funeral procession on the road next to the golf course. He stops mid-swing, takes off his golf cap, closes his eyes and bows his head in prayer.

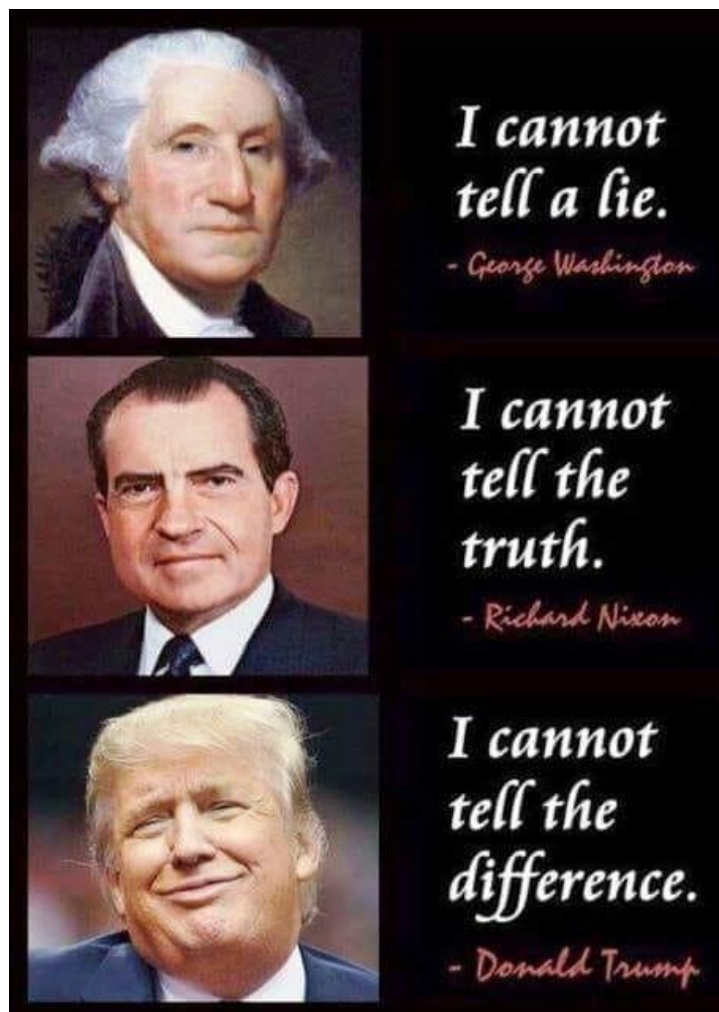
His mate says, "Wow, that's the most thoughtful and touching thing I've ever seen. You're such a very kind man."

The man replies: "Yeah, well, we were married for 35 years."

(Oldie but a goodie)



I FOUND A BOOK CALLED  
HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF  
YOUR PROBLEMS. SO, I  
BOUGHT TWO.





## Kindling

Sales of our kindling have gone through the roof with The Shed unable to keep up with demand. If anyone knows of any supplies of potential kindling such as fence palings, old floorboards, timber frames, etc., please let your Shed know so we can make attempts to collect it. No, we won't pull down your neighbour's fence or rip up the floor boards in his house without asking him first.



**Collect, prepare, split and sell.**



**Many thanks to *Shane* for our latest trailer load. It didn't last long.**

## News Break!

In a flurry of activity to keep pace with kindling demand, our magnificent machine had a conniption and "threw a rod". The crew managed to fix it without having to bother *Les B.* at home. Well done!



### Neighbourhood Centre Trailer – Update.

The NHC trailer is progressing well with the hitch and chains modified to current legal standards. The rewiring of lights completed and the painting (in basic black) complete. Consideration is being given as to if we register it or not with current regulations being pondered such as weights, carry capacity, towing vehicles, etc.

Many thanks to *Shane "Picasso" C.* for organising his team of artists for their painting work (*Henry and Noel*) and *Shane and Dick* for their electrical expertise in the rewiring. If anyone has trailer electrical issues that need rectifying, they're the men to see. Also, thanks for the installation of the new hitch, chains, jockey wheel and connector plug retainer must go to our metal working engineering experts, *Les, Dick & Barry*.



Current update has the old trailer upside down, minus springs, wheels, axle, floor and draw bar and ready for its final trip to the tip on the back of its replacement.

## Reasons Why it's Beaut to be a Bloke

- You have no trouble whatsoever putting stuff off until tomorrow.
- You feel perfectly comfortable wearing clothes you wore yesterday and left on the floor all night.
- Telephone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat, no worries.
- A 5-day holiday requires only 1 suitcase.
- The remote is yours and yours alone.
- Hot wax never comes anywhere near your private parts.
- You can whip your shirt off on a hot day.
- Cricket seems like a good idea.
- Your bathroom lines are 80% shorter.
- Your undies are \$6.99 for a three pack.
- If you own a toaster, you're never more than 2 minutes away from a tasty meal.
- If another bloke shows up to a party in the same outfit, you might become lifelong mates.
- As long as your mum's still alive, you can get your washing done at her place.
- Wedding dress \$2000; suit rental \$100.
- Your last name stays put.
- The garage is all yours.
- The wedding plans take care of themselves.
- You don't care if no-one notices your new haircut.
- Wrinkles add character.
- You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- If you are 34 and single, nobody notices.
- Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- You are not expected to know the names of more than five colours.
- You don't have to stop and think which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
- You are unable to see wrinkles in clothes.
- The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.
- Your belly usually hides your big hips.
- One wallet, one pair of shoes, one colour, all seasons.
- You can do your nails with a pocketknife.
- Christmas shopping can be accomplished for 25 relatives on December 24th, in minutes.



## Headlines from 2035

*Japan announces that they will no longer consume whale meat as whales are now extinct and the scientific research fleet are unemployed. Australian Government have told the Japanese that cane toads taste very similar to whale meat.*



## Little Melissa

Little Melissa comes home from school and tells her father that they learned about the history of Valentine's Day.

"Since Valentine's Day is for a Christian saint and we're Jewish," she asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone a valentine?"

Melissa's father thinks a bit, then says "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a Valentine to?"

Vladimir Putin," she says.



"Why Vladimir Putin," her father asks in shock.

"Well," she says, "I thought that if a little American Jewish girl could have enough love to give him Valentine, he might start to think that maybe we're not all bad, and maybe start loving people a little bit.

And if other kids saw what I did and sent Valentines to President Putin, he'd love everyone a lot.

And then he'd start going all over the place to tell everyone how much he loved them and how he didn't hate anyone any more."

Her father's heart swells and he looks at his daughter with new found pride.

"Melissa, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard."

"I know, "Melissa says, "and once that gets him out in the open, we could shoot the bastard!"

### **Poetry.**

Back in 2020, our resident poet had a disagreement with his circular saw bench (at home) which meant an urgent trip to our Medical Centre. No photos of his accident are attached as they were considered too gruesome for our sensitive natures. 😊

It started off a tangled mess 'cos I did something silly,  
I slashed my finger ends to pulp, they ended up all frilly.  
I was using my old saw bench, on things I often made,  
But now I am an S.O.B., I caught my fingers in the blade.

Blood went splashing everywhere, my head was in a spin,  
They looked just like raw sausages, waiting for the skin.  
I couldn't think what I should do, after what I'd done.  
Wrap them in a slice of bread, or in a wholemeal bun.

A quick trip to the hospital, I was in a desperate need,  
The Missus drove like crazy, she even went at speed.  
The duty nurse took care of me, she knew what to do,

Sat me down and talked to me and I didn't have to queue

Then there came an Angel, but Lauren had no wings,  
She had a tray of needles, swabs and other things.  
She held my hand, used such skill, stitched for many hours,  
She does not need just chocolate, but a garden full of flowers.

Then there came the aftercare, it took the whole Med Team,  
Nurses, Doctors one and all, now held in great esteem.  
So now my hand is all stitched up, looking good as new,  
Please accept my grateful thanks, without you, what would we do.

*Irvin Beeston*  
2020

## Editor

Well, that brings the September edition of Shed Torque to an end and I hope you've had an informative read on what's happening at your Shed with a few chuckles as well. This is the first Spring edition so we are living in hope for some warmer weather.

Don't forget, if you have an article you think would be suitable for inclusion in Shed Torque or an item you wish to sell that you think a fellow member may be interested in, please send it to me at [maurk01@bigpond.com](mailto:maurk01@bigpond.com) for inclusion in the next edition. As always, any suggestions on improving the running of The Shed are always considered before discarding out of hand. 😊

Again, thanks to *Paul L'H* for his information and keeping us up to date with what's happening, and to all the hard workers who provide content for our newsletter.

Cheers All, *Mark H.*

